

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-07 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-02 INR-07

IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-04 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /104 W

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R 230817Z JUL 76

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1731

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0418

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS; DE VOS JULY 21 PRESS CONFERENCE

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

THE FOLLOW THE QS AND AS AFTER DUTCH REP DE VOS' POST-PLENARY
PRESS STATEMENT (MBFR VIENNA 0400) ON JULY 21.

BEGIN TEXT:

1. Q. I JUST WOULD LIKE TO CLARIFY ONE WORD: ON PAGE 2 OF YOUR
STATEMENT IS THE WORD "NOW"; DOES THAT MEAN THAT THE PROPOSALS
YOU HAVE MENTIONED ARE PART OF THE PACKAGE OF DEC 16, OR IS IT
REFERRING TO LATER DEVELOPMENTS.

A. I WAS TALKING HERE ABOUT OUR TOTAL PROPOSALS. THAT IS,

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THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL AS AMENDED AND ADDED TO IN THE FORMAT

OF THE DEC 16 PROPOSAL.

2. Q. I AM SHOMWHAT IGNORANT. HOW MUCH IS A TANK ARMY?

A. IT IS COMMONLY KNOWN THAT THE SOVIET TANK ARMY WE PROPOSE TO HAVE WITHDRAWN WOULD AMOUNT TO ABOUT 68,000 MEN AND 1700 TANKS.

3. Q. YOU SAID ON PAGE 7 THAT THE REASONS FOR THE DISCREPANCIES IN THE FIGURES WILL NEED TO BE FULLY DISCUSSED DURING THE NEXT ROUND. SINCE THERE IS NO NEED FOR DISCUSSION OF FIGURES FROM THE EASTERN SIDE, THAT IS BEFORE THE WESTERN SIDE GIVES NEW FIGURES, DOES THIS MEAN THAT THE WESTERN SIDE WILL PRODUCE NEW FIGURES IN THE NEXT ROUND?

A. WE HAVE SUBMITTED DATA ON EASTERN FORCES IN THE AREA. WE HAVE NOW BEEN ASKED TO SUBMIT UPDATED FIGURES ON NATO FORCES.

WE TOLD THE OTHER SIDE THAT WE WOULD RESPOND IN DUE COURSE. AS I SAID IN EFFECT IN MY STATEMENT, WE INTEND TO DISCUSS THE DATA THE EAST HAS SUBMITTED IN THE NEXT ROUND. WE WOULD LIKE TO GO INTO THE DISCREPANCIES WE HAVE NOTED IN THEIR DATA, AND WE WOULD CERTAINLY INTEND TO HAVE A SERIOUS DISCUSSION ABOUT THAT IN THE NEXT ROUND.

4. Q. YOU HAVE BEEN WITH THIS NEGOTIATION FOR ABOUT THREE YEARS. COULD YOU SAY WHETHER YOU ARE SATISFIED WITH THE PROCEEDINGS OR WITH THE RESULTS. IF YES, WHY, AND IF NOT, WHY?

A. WE ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH THE PRESENT STAND OF THINGS. I HAVE EXPLAINED THAT PREVIOUSLY. IT IS SELF-EVIDENT THAT AFTER THREE YEARS OF DISCUSSIONS AND WITH RESULTS SO LIMITED - AND THAT MAY BE AN UNDERSTATEMENT - THERE IS NO REASON FOR SATISFACTION. AT THE END OF THIS ROUND, WE ARE SPECIALLY DISAPPOINTED THAT AFTER MORE THAN 6 MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE WE SUBMITTED VERY IMPORTANT NEW PROPOSALS, WHICH IN DOING SO THE WESTERN STATES HAD MADE CLEAR WAS TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO MOVE OUT OF THIS SITUATION OF NO REAL MOVEMENT AND TO CREATE AND EQUITABLE AND ACCEPTABLE BASIS FOR REAL AGREEMENT, THAT THE EASTERN SIDE HAS STILL NOT RESPONDED IN KIND. THEY STILL HAVE NOT GIVEN US A POSITIVE AND SERIOUS RESPONSE, AND THAT IS THE CAUSE FOR DISAPPOINTMENT, AS I SAID IN THE STATEMENT WHICH I UNCLASSIFIED

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HAVE JUST MADE.

5. Q. CAN YOU GIVE US ANY INDICATION AT ALL OF THE EXTENT OF THIS DISCREPANCY IN THE NUMBERS OF MEN. THE ORIGINAL DISCREPANCY WAS OF COURSE 148,000. CAN YOU GIVE US ANY IDEA AS TO WHAT THE EAST IS NOW SAYING IS REDUCING THIS TO NOTHING, OR TO HALF, OR ANY IDEA AT ALL?

A. THERE ARE TWO THINGS: DISCREPANCIES AND DISPARITIES.
AS TO DISCREPANCIES, I MEANT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE
FIGURES THE EAST HAS NOW TABLED AND OUR ESTIMATES OF WARSAW
PACT FORCES IN THE AREA. THOSE ARE IMPORTANT DISCREPANCIES.
I WOULD NOT LIKE TO GO INTO FIGURES WHICH THE EASTERN SIDE HAS
NOT MADE PUBLIC. IT HAS MENTIONED THE FIGURES TO US, BUT IT
IS NOT UP TO ME TO BREAK CONFIDENTIALITY AS FAR AS THIS ISSUE
IS CONCERNED. BUT THESE DISCREPANCIES ARE IMPORTANT. AS FAR AS
THE DISPARITIES ARE CONCERNED, THAT IS, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
NATO GROUND FORCE MANPOWER AND WARSAW PACT GROUND FORCE MANPOWER
IN THE AREA, ACCORDING TO OUR ESTIMATES, THAT DIFFERENCE
IS OF THE SAME ORDER AS WE HAD ORIGINALLY INDICATED. WE HAVE
NOTED NO MAJOR FLUCTUATIONS IN OUR ESTIMATES OF GROUND FORCE
MANPOWER ON BOTH SIDES DURING THE PERIOD OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS

6. Q. I KNOW THAT YOU CAN'T MENTION FIGURES. BUT MAY WE TAKE
THE FIGURES FROM THE GERMAN DEFENSE MINISTRY WHITE BOOK AS BEING
CORRECT FIGURES?

A. THESE FIGURES ARE OFFICIAL DATA OF THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT.
WE WOULD THUS HAVE TO REGARD THEM IN THAT CONTEXT AS BEING
CORRECT. (Q. BUT THERE IS A DISPARITY BETWEEN NATO AND WARSAW
PACT FIGURES IN THAT WHITE BOOK.) I AM SORRY, DID YOU MEAN THE
FIGURES FOR THE BUNDESWEHR. (NO, THIS WAS FOR THE WHOLE AREA.)
I WOULD NOT WANT TO GO BEYOND THE FIGURES WE HAD PREVIOUSLY TABLED;
THE ORDER OF MAGNITUDE IS STILL THE SAME, AND THAT CONSTITUTES
OUR ASSESSMENT. AND THIS OF COURSE REFERS TO THE FORCES IN
THE AREA.

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MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

7.Q. YOU SAY IN YOUR STATEMENT THAT IT IS NOT CLEAR
ON WHAT BASIS THE EAST HAS COMPUTED ITS DATA.. DO
YOU MEAN THAT THEY ARE NOT COUNTING MEN? THAT THEY
ARE COUNTING SOMETHING ELSE?

A. THEY MUST HAVE BEEN COUNTING MEN. BUT THERE MAY BE
DIFFERENT COUNTING RULES. I WOULD NOT WANT TO GO
INTO THE SUBJECT MATTER HERE. (Q. YOU HAVE COUNTED
THEIR MEN; COULD YOU GIVE US ANY INDICATION WHERE
THE DISCREPANCIES COULD LIE, WITHOUT GOING INTO THE
CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE THING.) WE WOULD LIKE TO
GO INTO THIS MATTER WITH OUR EASTERN PARTNERS
DURING THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS IN AN ORDERLY AND
SERIOUS WAY. I WOULD PREFER NOT TO GO INTO DETAILS,
AND I HOPE YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THAT. (Q. ARE YOU
SUGGESTING, SIR, THAT WE ARE NOT INTERESTED IN
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PUTTING OUT BUSINESSLIKE REPORTS?) I WAS NOT
TRYING TO BE DISPARAGING. BUT I HOPE YOU WILL UNDER-
STAND MY POSITION, WHICH IS THAT EVEN ON DATA WE
STILL SEEM TO BE QUITE FAR APART AT THIS MOMENT;
IN SUCH A DELICATE SITUATION WE ON OUR PART WOULD
LIKE TO DO THE UTMOST TO KEEP THE CONFIDENTIALITY
OF THE NEGOTIATIONS IN TACT. THAT IS WHY I SAID
THAT I DON'T WANT TO GO INTO CONCRETE FACTS AS
LONG AS WE ARE DISCUSSING THEM WITH THE OTHER
SIDE.

8.Q. THERE ALSO SEEMS TO BE A DISCREPANCY BETWEEN YOUR
APPROACH AND THE WARSAW PACT APPROACH AS REGARDS
OPTIMISM. THEY TALK ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY FOR PROGRESS,
BUT YOU SAY NOTHING HERE ABOUT PROGRESS AS FAR AS THE
OUTLOOK OF THE TALKS IS CONCERNED. ARE YOU THAT FAR
APART?

A. AS I SAID AT THE END OF MY STATEMENT, WE HOPE THAT
THE EAST WILL IN DUE COURSE COME AROUND TO A MORE

POSITIVE AND SERIOUS RESPONSE TO THE VERY IMPORTANT PROPOSAL WE MADE AT THE END OF LAST YEAR. THAT WOULD OPEN THE WAY FOR PROGRESS.

9.Q. ON THE BASIS OF THE PRELIMINARY STUDY YOU HAVE MADE OF THE EASTERN DATA, IS THERE ANYTHING IN THEM THAT LEADS YOU TO THE VIEW THAT ANY CHANGES HAVE OCCURED IN THE THREE YEARS SINCE THE WESTERN SIDE PRESENTED SIMILAR DATA - I MEAN CHANGES ON THE EASTERN SIDE. THERE HAS BEEN SOME REFERENCE TO THE "PROFILE" OF FORCES.

A. AS I SAID BEFORE, OUR ESTIMATES OF THE FORCES WHICH ARE PRESENT IN THE AREA ON THE WARSAW PACT SIDE SHOW NO MAJOR FLUCTUATIONS, IN THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATING PERIOD. (Q. THAT APPLIES TO GROUND FORCES OR TO ALL FORCES?) THAT APPLIES TO ALL FORCES.

10. RETURNING TO THE QUESTIION OF FIGURES: IS THIS A QUESTION OF MUTUAL TRUST WHEN YOU SPEAK ABOUT THE FIGURES, OR WHAT METHODS DO YOU HAVE FOR ESTIMATING
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WHAT THE FIGURES ARE ON THE WESTERN SIDE AND ON THE EASTERN SIDE?

A. EACH SIDE MAKES ITS ESTIMATES WITH THE MEANS IT HAS AVAILABLE, AND WE BELIEVE THAT OUR DATA ARE GOOD AND THAT THEY ARE CORRECT. (Q. YOU HAVE MORE TRUST IN YOUR ESTIMATES?) IT IS NOT A MATTER OF TRUST. WE NOW HAVE TO CLEAR UP THE QUESTION OF THE DISCREPANCIES WHICH DO EXIST. ONE OF THE QUESTIONS WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE IN THE NEXT ROUND WHETHER WE HAVE USED THE SAME COUNTING RULES, SOMETHING I MENTIONED BEFORE. END TEXT

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